

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);
Subject: FW: CapX 2020-comments for environmental impact statement
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:33:12 AM
Attachments: [Angellcapx202Letter.doc](#)

From: angell@stolaf.edu [mailto:angell@stolaf.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 1:38 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX 2020-comments for environmental impact statement

June 29, 2009

Dear Ms. Strength,

As a conservation biologist at St. Olaf College and as a landowner along Goodhue Avenue, I am concerned about the biological resources being put at risk by the Hampton-Rochester length of the CapX2020 project and especially concerned about the route west of Hwy 56 which closely follows the Rice and Goodhue County lines.

I-101-001 This area includes a set of state and federally listed species. A number of populations of the federally threatened prairie bush clover exist very close to the route west of Hwy 56. I am personally aware of three populations of the federally threatened prairie bush clover along the bluff prairies within about a half mile or less of the planned line route. There are also a number of state listed species. The MN state endangered Henslow's sparrow has been seen several times in the area. State threatened species in the area include loggerhead shrikes and kitten tails. State special concern species include the prairie vole.

I-101-002 All these species occur regularly in the bluff prairies over which the lines will pass. Access roads and construction of towers will disturb the habitat of all of these species. I am particularly concerned with loggerhead shrikes. The lines placed on the route west of Hwy 56 will pass DIRECTLY through at least 3 known shrike territories. These birds have been declining nationally and in the state of Minnesota. Research students at St. Olaf have been monitoring this population as has the MN DNR. The placement of power lines along the route west of Hwy 56 should be

I-101-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and vegetation, particularly federal and state regulated species, will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-101-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

strongly discouraged due to the risks faced by these species and declining prairie habitats.

Sincerely,

Diane K. Angell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057

and

Landowner
XXXX Goodhue Avenue
Township 111, Range 19
Section 1

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Diane K. Angell
Assistant Professor of Biology
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057
507-786-3101

I-101-003

June 29, 2009

Dear Ms. Strength,

As a conservation biologist at St. Olaf College and as a landowner along Goodhue Avenue, I am concerned about the biological resources being put at risk by the Hampton-Rochester length of the CapX2020 project and especially concerned about the route west of Hwy 56 which closely follows the Rice and Goodhue County lines.

This area includes a set of state and federally listed species. A number of populations of the federally threatened prairie bush clover exist very close to the route west of Hwy 56. I am personally aware of three populations of the federally threatened prairie bush clover along the bluff prairies within about a half mile or less of the planned line route. There are also a number of state listed species. The MN state endangered Henslow's sparrow has been seen several times in the area. State threatened species in the area include loggerhead shrikes and kitten tails. State special concern species include the prairie vole.

All these species occur regularly in the bluff prairies over which the lines will pass. Access roads and construction of towers will disturb the habitat of all of these species. I am particularly concerned with loggerhead shrikes. The lines placed on the route west of Hwy 56 will pass DIRECTLY through at least 3 known shrike territories. These birds have been declining nationally and in the state of Minnesota. Research students at St. Olaf have been monitoring this population as has the MN DNR. The placement of power lines along the route west of Hwy 56 should be strongly discouraged due to the risks faced by these species and declining prairie habitats.

Sincerely,

Diane K. Angell, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057

and

Landowner
XXXX Goodhue Avenue
Township 111, Range 19
Section 1

I-101-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.